

The President called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. after a moment of silence in memory and honor of Navy Corpsman Max Soviak of Berlin Heights, Ohio, who was killed two weeks ago in Afghanistan, the Invocation, given by Dave Waddington, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and the following Commissioners responded: Mike Meinzer, Wes Poole, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to excuse Dennis Murray. The President declared the motion passed.

City staff present: Eric Wobser - City Manager, Jared Oliver – Police Chief, Don Rumbutis – IT Technician, Stuart Hamilton – IT Manager, Aaron Klein – Public Works Director, Brendan Heil – Law Director, Jim Green – Acting Fire Chief, Arin Blair – Chief Planner and Kelly Kresser – Interim Commission Clerk.

City staff via teleconference: John Orzech – Assistant City Manager, Michelle Reeder – Finance Director, Jonathan Holody – Development Director.

Upon motion of Blake Harris and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the August 23 regular meeting and suspend the formal reading. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked what the city's long-term obligation is for the Cedar Point Causeway wetlands project (Item #5). He asked if the city can contact the ODNR and find out if they have done anything to open the gates near the Pipe Creek wildlife area for wildlife and for regrowth of native species. The floodgates were never opened this year and it seems as if it has been abandoned. Tim Schwanger asked if the new fire fighters being sworn in and the new police officer being introduced tonight are to fulfill obligations in filling positions from previous layoffs, or to replace retired personnel.

SWEARING-IN OF NEW FIRE FIGHTERS

Douglas O'Donnell and Zachary Stryffeler were sworn in as Fire Fighters with the Sandusky Fire Department and gave their oaths, as follows: "I, Douglas O'Donnell/Zachary Stryffeler, recognizing my fundamental duty as a Fire Fighter of the City of Sandusky Fire Department, do solemnly swear to uphold the standards of my profession by safeguarding the lives and property of our citizens against the threat of fire and disaster. I promise to obey the duly constituted laws of the United States of America, the State of Ohio and the City of Sandusky and to accept the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, leadership and trust to be honored for as long as I remain a Fire Fighter of the City of Sandusky Fire Department. I will continually strive to serve our community and to be an influence for good before my fellow officers and Fire Fighters to the best of my ability, so help me."

Acting Fire Chief Jim Green said Fire Fighter O'Donnell comes from the Vermilion area and started with the department on August 31. He is assigned to the #1 shift under the command of Captain D'Amico. Fire Fighter Stryffeler is from Cleveland and started working for the department today. He is assigned to the #3 shift under his (Jim Green) command. Jim Green thanked the commission for continuing to replenish personnel.

Chief Jared Oliver introduced **new Officer Austin Krausher who began working for the Police Department** on September 2. Officer Krausher is a resident of Erie County and was a Reserve Police officer for a couple of months. He will replace an officer who retired, was commissioned last week by the City Manager and has started his field training.

PUBLIC HEARING

President Brady announced the opening of a Public Hearing regarding the proposed rezoning of 431 Columbus Avenue.

Arin Blair said this is for three parcels known as 431 Columbus Avenue which was the First Congregational Church. This is an historic structure on the Columbus Avenue corridor. There were two parcels unintentionally omitted from the drawings/documents submitted for consideration and this will be corrected. When a parcel is proposed for rezoning, we follow our Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan and this rezoning is proposed to house events such as weddings, adult art classes, the sale of local art and transient rental units, and does follow the city's Bicentennial Vision in our Comprehensive Plan. It will help the potential to build community, to increase connectivity and help to shape Sandusky as a destination city. It is exciting to see this historic property available to continue to be reused as the church has moved to a new location in Sandusky Plaza. The applicants are here tonight and are available to answer any questions.

The President asked if there were any comments or questions from the public. There were none.

The President asked if there were any comments or questions from the commissioners. Dick Brady told the owners - Michael and Jackie Cox - they have a very aggressive plan and thanked them for taking a leap of faith on this property.

Michael Cox, on behalf of The Commodore at Sandusky Bay, LLC, 431 Columbus Avenue, said there are currently no plans for food service at this point in time. He and his wife, Jackie, plan to create VRBO transient rental as the main use which takes up some spaces naturally lending themselves to this type of use such as the former classrooms and offices. The sanctuary will be maintained unchanged and has a lot of history for Sandusky and for the individuals who worshipped and/or married here. The space will be utilized for rental as a public event space for things such as weddings or small concerts and for the church members to use as an event space. Jackie Cox will be holding art classes and offer art for sale from local artisans and there will be office space and storage in support of these ventures. Downtown is booming and there are not a whole lot of places for tourists to stay where they can walk to the downtown area. They will be looking for group rentals and to get people who may be staying for a week at the SportsForce Park for tournaments. They would like to host teams and parents and involve restaurants and other local establishments. Dick Brady said this is a prime location for all of these things. Blake Harris asked if the owners envisioned the transient rental being more like a hostel and Michael Cox said no, they envision low turnover and not having one night stays. They are more interested in multiple families staying for three or four days to rent out the entire place with individual rooms to retire to at night. Wes Poole said this is a wonderful vision and wishes the owners the best.

There being no further comments or questions, the President declared the Public Hearing closed.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to accept all communications. The President declared the motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The President asked if the commissioners wished to remove any of the items on the Consent Agenda. There were no requests to do so.

ITEM A – Submitted by Michelle Reeder, Finance Director**ACCEPTING AMOUNTS AND RATES FOR TAX LEVIES**

Budgetary Information: The city is required to accept the tax rates as determined by the Erie County Budget Commission before October 1, 2021. This approval establishes funding for 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 038-21R: It is requested a resolution be passed accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Erie County Budget Commission for the FY commencing on January 1, 2022; authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor; and declaring that this resolution shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM B – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works**PAYMENT TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR MAINTENANCE OF STATE ROUTE 2**

Budgetary Information: The total cost for the State Route 2 maintenance services for the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021 (FY '21) is \$10,743.35 and will be paid from the City of Sandusky State Highway fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-132: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing payment to the Treasurer of State, Ohio Department of Transportation for the maintenance of State Route 2 in the City of Sandusky by the Ohio Department of Transportation for the period of July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

ITEM C – Submitted by Josh Snyder, Assistant City Engineer**CHANGE ORDER #1 AND FINAL FOR 2020 SHARED DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT (DEDUCT)**

Budgetary Information: Change Order No. 1 and final is a deduction of \$3,032.30 which will revise the original contract amount from \$33,077.09 to a final of \$30,044.79 and will be a savings to the real estate development fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-133: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to approve the first and final change order for work performed by Ed Burdue & Company, LLC of Sandusky, Ohio, for the 2020 shared driveway construction project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Mike Meinzer and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to accept the Consent Agenda and declare all ordinances and resolutions as drafted and presented to the City Commission under the Consent Agenda and shall take effect in full accordance with the Section reflected in the ordinances or resolutions whether they be in accordance with Section 13 or Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. Roll call on the ordinances and resolutions: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared

the ordinances and resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda passed in full accordance with the city charter.

REGULAR AGENDA

ITEM #1 – Submitted by Arin Blair, Chief Planner

PROPOSED REZONING OF 431 COLUMBUS AVENUE

Budgetary Information: The proposed redevelopment is expected to result in increased property, income and lodging tax revenue for the city.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-134: It is requested an ordinance be passed amending the official zone map of the City of Sandusky to rezone Parcel No's. 56-68032.000, 56-68031.000 and 56-68034.000 located at 431 Columbus Avenue from "PF" public facilities district to "GB" general business district; and declaring that this ordinance shall take effect under suspension of the rules as contained in and in accordance with Section 13 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Blake Harris, the Commission voted to approve the ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 13 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 13 of the City Charter.

ITEM #2 – Submitted by Alec Ochs, Assistant Planner

CONTRACT WITH ADVANCED EXCAVATING & DEMOLITION, LLC FOR CDBG FY 2021 DEMOLITION PROJECT #1

Budgetary Information: The total cost for the asbestos abatement and demolition is \$33,500. The cost for the three demolitions will be paid with FY 2021 CDBG funds totaling \$33,500.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-135: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Advanced Excavating & Demolition, LLC of McComb, Ohio, for the CDBG FY 2021 demolition project #1; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Blake Harris, the Commission voted to approve the ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM #3 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works

AGREEMENT WITH STANTEC FOR PRELIMINARY DESIGN SERVICES RELATED TO THE MILLS STREET HIGH RATE TREATMENT PROJECT

Budgetary Information: All payments for this \$410,800 contract would be initially paid with sewer funds but the city has "nominated" this project for reimbursement through a low-interest or no-interest loan from the Water Pollution Control loan fund. The formal application will be submitted in 2022 when final design and construction estimates are

more accurate. Erie County would be required to pay their required share based on the sewer services agreement.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-136: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for professional design services with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio, for the Mills Street high rate treatment project; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Blake Harris and second of Naomi Twine, the Commission voted to approve the ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Wes Poole said there was a request to hold this project and asked what this is about to determine whether it needs to be tabled. Aaron Klein said he can speak more about the technical nature of this project while questions about the timing requirement will be answered by the Law Director. In 2013, the city was negotiating with the Ohio EPA to extend additional projects through our General Plan (long term control plan) which they mandated. At that time, they wanted the city to do approximately \$120 million worth of projects over a ten year timeframe. After several rounds of negotiations, we got this down to \$20 million over a ten year timeframe. The first group of these projects is being concluded which is the east end sewer project. This is the last construction project agreed to and it must be completed within ten years. The completion date for this project is December 1, 2024, and although this seems like a long time away, two different consultants have said they expect this to have an 18- to 24-month construction schedule so we need to start construction in December, 2022. We only have about one year to design the project. Stantec Consulting said we probably should have started designing this particular project back in May or June, 2021, and are really concerned about the timing. It is imperative we get this project done so we do not get fined by the EPA. This agreement is for the first phase of preliminary engineering for just over \$410,000. There is a detailed evaluation needed because there are so many different high rate treatment technologies available and we need to figure out which will be the best for the city's treatment system. This will include which is most cost effective, which treats our waste water effluent best and also which has the smallest footprint because the last thing we want to do is affect the surrounding neighborhood, park and businesses (Peerless Stove). In the first phase, we will be evaluating the available treatment technologies and having field trips to see these in action. We will then do preliminary engineering cost evaluations and spatial analysis and anticipate coming back in early 2022 to receive a final design at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Brendan Heil said there is no reason to remove this from tonight's Agenda and there is no issue with moving forward from a legal perspective. As pointed out, we actually have a legal obligation to complete these projects by December 1, 2024. Logistically, time is of the essence. Legally, time is also of the essence so we can comply with our legally-obligated duties under our EPA permits. Wes Poole asked if Erie County has an alternative plan based upon their request to hold up this project and if this is the only way this can be done to achieve the goals of the EPA. Aaron Klein said the city supplied Erie County with the scope of work and Request for Proposals several months ago; we also supplied them with the Request for Qualifications which detailed what we were going to be doing. He has not heard any alternatives from Erie County and, in fact, our NPDES permit is very specific and states we have to complete a 16 MGD high rate treatment process at this location. Wes Poole said he is trying to make sure, before going forward, there is not something going on which we will have to address with the pending lawsuit. He wants to make sure we have not ignored what the county may be suggesting. He asked if we have asked for an extension with the EPA which the

county has agreed to pay for (the extension fee). Brendan Heil said it is not that simple. The suggestion from the county is wildly inaccurate as to simply paying a fee and getting an extension. This could open the entire permitting process and we would have to then reevaluate and potentially incur much, much more cost than the application filing fee. The recommendation is this is the best path moving forward from a legal and engineering perspective. Dick Brady said it has been made crystal clear to the commission this item should not be removed from the agenda and we need to move forward. In addition, it is the opinion of our legal counsel and because of our litigation with Erie County that we do not take it off of the agenda; this is all he needed to hear. Mike Meinzer said he was not here in 2015 when this initiative started and is not going to speak to legalities or the county's proposals. He does know the city is dumping raw sewage into Sandusky Bay and any reasonable person would think that since 2015 we have been doing this in the water which we drink, boat and swim in and there is no reason to postpone this any longer. If the county has an alternative to preventing e-coli and raw sewage from going into the lake we should hear it and they should be at the podium tonight telling us how they would do this.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM #4 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works

AGREEMENT WITH KS ASSOCIATES FOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION AND ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE CEDAR POINT CAUSEWAY WETLANDS PROJECT

Budgetary Information: There is no impact to the city's budget as all project activities totaling \$377,004 will be paid from on a reimbursable basis through ODNR grant funding. This award would leave sufficient grant funds for construction activities.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-137: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for professional services with KS Associates, Inc., of Elyria, Ohio, for the Cedar Point Causeway wetland project, Phase I related to the Sandusky Bay Initiative; and declaring that this ordinance shall take effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Wes Poole, the Commission voted to approve the ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

ITEM #5 – Submitted by Aaron Klein, Director of Public Works

CONTRACT WITH MARK SCHAFFER EXCAVATING & TRUCKING, INC. FOR THE CEDAR POINT CAUSEWAY WETLANDS PROJECT

Budgetary Information: There is no impact to the city budget as the full contract amount totaling \$2,978,325 will be paid from on a reimbursable basis through accepted ODNR grant funding. This award would leave sufficient grant funds from inspection and construction engineering.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-138: It is requested an ordinance be passed authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Mark Schaffer Excavating & Trucking, Inc. of Norwalk, Ohio, for the Cedar Point Causeway wetland project, Phase I, and relating to the Sandusky Bay initiative; and declaring that this ordinance shall take immediate effect in accordance with Section 14 of the city charter.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Blake Harris, the Commission voted to approve the ordinance under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

Discussion: Aaron Klein said there are several different phases to this project and this contract is for the first phase where we are constructing the outer perimeter for a breakwater wall. Next year the Corps of Engineers will dump the dredge materials and believes they may get two cycles out of it. The following year we are going to come back and reconstruct the wetland with the dryer material, move the rocks around and do the native vegetation and plantings. We do have a draft adapted management plan and have worked with the Corps of Engineers, ODNR – Fish & Wildlife Division, Great Lakes Restoration and the Ohio EPA. There are requirements for the long term maintenance and this does not come into effect. The plan cannot be finalized until we complete the last phase with the native vegetation and plantings. There is a performance monitoring piece and we hope Mother Nature will take over for controls since she knows a lot more about this than any person. Performance monitoring is somewhat subjective to what Mother Nature does with the site. This plan is in a draft version and is still going through iterations with these agencies.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed. Roll call on the ordinance: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the ordinance passed under suspension of the rules and in full accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Eric Wobser introduced **Marcus Harris and said he started working for the city today as its Diversity and Economic Opportunity Manager.** This is a newly-created position which was created from an existing vacancy with a slightly tweaked budget. Mr. Harris will have a focus on looking at the city's policies as they relate to hiring, boards and commissions, community outreach and workforce development. We had a lot of support for this position from the Community Relations Commission and City Commissioners Twine and Harris. Of the applicants interviewed, Marcus rose to the top. He is a Sandusky native and has significant workforce development experience working with Youth Opportunities Unlimited – an agency which works to place Cleveland youth in employment opportunities throughout Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. In addition, Marcus spent a great deal of time in management, particularly the local Starbucks chains in Sandusky and northeast Ohio and has some HR background. Marcus Harris thanked Eric Wobser for the introduction and said he is very excited to be coming back home to be doing this important work for the City of Sandusky.
- Eric Wobser said Officer **Austin Krausher was recently commissioned as a full-time Police Officer** and began his training last week.

- For the second year in a row, the **Sandusky Fire Department received the Lifeline EMS Gold Plus Award from the American Heart Association**. Sandusky Fire Department is part of an elite group of pre-hospital agencies recognized by the American Heart Association. The award recognizes our commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of pre-hospital care by ensuring that every STEMI patient receives treatment according to nationally-accepted recommendations and standards. While we have come to expect this type of service, we should never take it for granted and they do perform a very high level of care.
- **Sandusky Fire Department would like to thank Hohler Sheet Metal and Jonatta & Herner for the work they performed on Station #7**. Both companies made adjustments in their schedule to accommodate the Fire Department to prevent the station being closed for an extended period of time.
- The next **Audit/Finance Committee meeting** is September 17 at 8 a.m.
- Staff worked to **install two flag poles on Columbus Avenue in front of City Hall**. A ceremonial flag raising is being scheduled for the near future.
- All **splash pads have been shut down** for the season.
- **Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to approve the expenditure of approximately \$30,430.78 for the emergency monthly rental of a generator (for two months)**.

Discussion: Eric Wobser said during a power failure at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the existing 1998 standby generator that operates the ultraviolet disinfection and aeration processes at the end of waste water treatment became inoperable as of September 1. The processes were still in normal operation on the main power supply and permit requirements have been met, but it is imperative to rent a temporary standby generator until a replacement unit can be purchased. As this is considered a health and safety emergency, and many of the rental companies that have this size of unit have provided their mobile equipment to hurricane relief efforts, staff worked hard to locate an available 500kW unit in Columbus, Ohio. It was delivered and operational on Thursday, September 9 and no permit exceedances occurred during that timeframe. The monthly rental cost of \$15,215.39 exceeds the \$10,000 limit established by the city charter. Staff would like approval today to expend \$30,430.78 of sewer capital funds on this rental for two months with the intent of presenting legislation at a future meeting. We are working with manufacturers to determine availability and delivery time for a permanent replacement unit so additional rental time will probably be needed.

The President declared the motion passed.

- National recognition is being given for things that Sanduskians already know about. **Osborn Engineering and City Architecture accepted an Engineering Excellence award in June from the Ohio Chapter of American Council of Engineering Companies for their design of the Jackson Street Pier and Shoreline Drive**. Eric Wobser said he also wishes to thank the design and construction team, consisting of OHM, City Architecture and Independence Construction (formerly Donley's). The Mylander Pavilion, is one of ten Mass Timber buildings throughout the country that has been nominated for an award at www.woodworksinnovationnetwork.org.

- There are two residential fall clean-up opportunities available:
 1. **Drive-Thru Drop-Off Day** will take place on Saturday, September 25 at the Shelby Street boat launch overflow parking lot from 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.
 2. Residents are welcome to **drop-off yard waste free of charge** at Barnes Nursery, 1630 Camp Road, Huron, on Saturday, October 9 and Sunday, October 10. For questions or further details about these events, please call 419.627.5829.

- The **Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)** for CDBG fund year 2020 is in draft form. The CAPER contains a summary of the work that was completed during the last year. There will be a public hearing at the September 27 City Commission meeting. A legal ad was published in the [Sandusky Register](#) on September 10 containing this information. A public comment period started on September 10 and will be open until September 24. The CAPER is due to HUD on September 30.

- The city is two weeks into the six-week series of conducting **Neighborhood Ice Cream Socials** on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. with follow up meetings on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. for those who cannot attend on Wednesdays. Eric Wobser thanked the commissioners who have joined staff and residents for these conversations and encouraged everyone to continue to join and invite friends and neighbors in these areas of the city to attend. All event dates and locations can be found at www.cityofsandusky.com/neighborhoods.

- Other engagement events coming up include:
 1. Two informal public meetings will be held to discuss **Transient Occupancy Overlay Districts**. These will take place on Monday, September 20 and Monday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Station classroom, 600 West Market Street.
 2. Staff will also host a meeting with residents of the **Cold Creek subdivision** to answer questions and gather input for the future of their neighborhood. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sandusky Career Center, 4501 Venice Heights Boulevard.

- The next **Public Arts and Culture Commission** meeting is September 21 at 5:15 p.m.

- The next **Landmark Commission** meeting is September 15 at 5 p.m.

- The **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting scheduled for September 16 at 4:30 p.m. has been cancelled.

- The next **Planning Commission** meeting is September 22 at 5 p.m.

- **Sandusky Recreation is excited for another fall season of programming** ahead. Rose Gold Gymnastics continues this September through December with monthly classes at the Erie County Fairgrounds. Sign Language and Spanish classes will be hosted in the Rec Room at 222 Meigs Street this fall and a new dance class will take place in time for Halloween with the Monster Mash with Mookie. Participants will learn a choreographed dance in time for the Downtown Trick or Treat scheduled for Saturday, October 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Little ones wishing to create their own costume for the event can sign up for this fall's Make it Sew Easy class with Stephanie Brown Mayfield.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Meinzer said he started tearing up when he **watched the ‘rookies’ take their Oath tonight** and it is tough being the old guy. It is only two days after the 9/11 anniversary and he recently got to watch some footage most of the general public did not get to see. When these kids take their Oath, they take it seriously. There have been local safety service persons who have lost their lives and these young men are very brave.

NEW BUSINESS

Upon motion of Blake Harris and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to appoint Luveda Wilson to the Fire Chief Selection Committee.

Discussion: Dick Brady said Luveda Wilson, Dru Meredith and Lee Alexakos are his three appointees to the Fire Chief Selection Committee. Luveda Wilson serves as the Erie County Clerk of Courts. Dru Meredith is the Director of Marketing & Recruitment for Firelands Regional Medical Center. Lee Alexakos recently retired from Cedar Fair and has served as Director of Marketing and Community Relations. By Charter, the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission is appointed (or appoints) a member to this Selection Committee. Vince Rhodes is the current Chairman and has appointed John May to serve as this representative. Dick Brady said he will be the commission member on the Selection Committee.

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Dave Waddington and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to appoint Dru Meredith to the Fire Chief Selection Committee. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Blake Harris and second of Naomi Twine, the commission voted to appoint Lee Alexakos to the Fire Chief Selection Committee. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Dave Waddington, the commission voted to conduct a Public Hearing at the September 27 commission meeting regarding the 2020 CDBG Annual Report. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Blake Harris, the commission voted to conduct a Public Hearing at the October 25 commission meeting regarding proposed amendments to the Planning & Zoning Code, Chapter 1157 – Floodplain Administration of the city’s Code of Ordinances. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Wes Poole, Mike Meinzer, Dick Brady, Naomi Twine, Dave Waddington and Blake Harris, 6. The President declared the motion passed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Sharon Johnson, 1139 Fifth Street submitted via email: “What percentage of completion phase is the Feick Building job, 50% or 75%? Why is the city allowing the project to drag on using COVID as an excuse as to why the building cannot be completed in a timely matter? The taxpayers paid \$43,000 for financial consultants to do a study on the city’s

finances. Is the report completed and if so, why haven't the results been discussed publically, or how much longer will it be to obtain the report?"

Matt Ames, 2204 Mills Street, submitted via email: "My comments and questions are in regards to Resolution No. 027-21R, "Grant application to Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the Mills Creek Golf Course trail project" from the May 24, 2021, City Commission meeting. My neighbors and I were excited to learn that this resolution had passed, and the grant awarded, to develop the Mills Creek Golf Course for off-season use by installing additional 'trails' inside the park. We were under the assumption, based on the minutes of the Commission meeting, that this would be a project that connects existing golf cart trails to form an interconnected "fitness trail" that could be utilized by the public for walking and biking use during the golfing off-season. This assumption was presumed based upon our City Commissioner's comments prior to voting on this resolution. Mayor Brady is quoted as saying, "It is a golf course, but anything we can do to get more play out of all our facilities, benefits all residents; whether that be walking, biking, or any activity deemed appropriate. The Mayor went on to say that he appreciates them being proactive in that approach." My neighbors and I full-heartedly agree with the Mayor's comment and also appreciate that proactive approach. Commissioner Poole, demonstrating that he reviewed plans of the completed project, specifically asked Mr. Werling 2 detailed questions from those sets of plans. He asked whether the yellow lines on the plans were existing trails or proposed new ones; and how wide the proposed new trails would be. In hindsight, I find it interesting how Mr. Werling answered Commissioner Poole's first question about what the yellow lines indicated. He stated that some of the yellow lines were existing trails while some were new. Though I have not reviewed the plans first hand, I will say that this is not how plans are drawn up. Typically, a set of plans for a project like this would delineate the difference between existing and proposed new trails with different colors and/or symbols. So Mr. Werling's answer struck me as odd. At our "ice cream social" last week at Macarthur Park, my interest in the details of this project were directed to Mr. Tom Horsman. His email reply was this: 'At this point, the city has received grant funding to install a pathway along hole 1 at the golf course. This work will be done by city staff and will commence in November. This will allow easier access to the sledding hill in the winter time. The intent would be to eventually create a path loop to connect the whole course, and staff are looking at additional funding opportunities for that. There is no set time frame for that larger project though.' So now there is no timeframe for the 'larger project.' It was implied, based on a set of plans submitted to the Commission AND the discussion from our commissioners that this would be what the resolution and associated grant award would be delivering. If this is indeed the case, we in the South Side neighborhood are very disappointed and it only reinforces our concerns for how committed our city leadership is with the revitalization of our neighborhood. This makes us suspicious that this resolution was sold to benefit the neighborhood but will end up only benefitting the golf course and those that golf. Is this additional pathway from hole 1 to the hill really for sledders during the winter, or is it really just a new golf cart path for golfers? My accusation is based on reason and common-sense. This path will be covered in snow and will not be visible unless a city employee gets out there plows it and de-ices it. Is that going to happen on a snow day or during a winter storm? That's yet to be seen. So the question begs to be asked. Who really benefits from this resolution because it doesn't sound like it's going to be my neighbors who desire a walking and biking inside the Mills Creek Golf Course and will only nominally benefit 'sledders' in the winter...Can anyone on the Commission speak to the details of this project and were they aware of the limited scope of work to be performed from this grant? How committed is the city to following through on the completion of this project, where would funds come from, and what would be a time-frame for completion?"

Wes Poole asked for the City Manager to clear up these issues regarding the golf course at the next commission meeting. He too was under the impression this was going to be utilized as described and perhaps he was misinformed. Dick Brady asked for these concerns to be addressed directly to Mr. Ames.

Nick Katsaros with FirstEnergy Corporation, said he wanted to stop by and make sure there are no outstanding issues or questions with anything related to Ohio Edison.

Tom LaMarca, 206 48th Street, said he loved the bands who appeared on the Jackson Street Pier this summer and said less than two percent of the city enjoyed them and he heard nothing but great comments about The Hitmen who performed last Friday. The only downside was people think the stage should be turned a bit more to the east so the sound does not bounce off of the glass at the Chesapeake building. He likes the boats coming into the harbor on this slip even though there is a transient marina next door and perhaps we need to put an honor box on the east side of the Jackson Street Pier to see if they pay attention to it (with proper signage). We also need signage where the Goodtime docks because there was a pleasure boat docked where the Goodtime belongs and pays for; it would have crushed that boat if it had come in while it was docked there. He also saw a boat docked at the south end of the Jackson Street Pier picking people up and we need signage for this. On the east wall at the waterline, there is an eyebolt sticking out 10" to 12" and this is a hazard. He really believes the Ice Cream socials need to have two-way communication; folks who live in the neighborhood(s) need to be able to ask questions of the city and have their answers heard by everyone. They all have questions and some are a little timid and afraid to ask. Once the concerns and questions are answered, this may solve some other problems down the road. He is happy to see the police and fire departments are adding personnel and is still waiting and watching to see if we will meet the 2008 staffing levels through attrition but thinks we will miss it. He is disappointed we continue to hire management, upper level people with big salaries and are not hiring the 'operators' who turn a shovel or a blade and run pieces of equipment. We need more people doing the job and less people saying how to do the job.

Tim Schwanger, 362 Sheffield Way, asked for follow-up regarding the Pipe Creek wildlife area from Aaron Klein. As a lifelong resident, not a City Commission candidate, and based on his experience in attending several hundred commission meetings, staff meetings, project meetings and City Manager meetings, there has always been a dialogue between residents and city staff. This goes back to the neighborhood initiative meetings five years ago where we had open discussion and dialogue. Fast forward to 2021, the ice cream socials have turned into follow-up meetings of the neighborhood initiatives but the dialogue has been stifled by city staff. This is unfortunate and it would behoove city staff to hear everyone's concerns as well as the neighbors to hear the concerns of others instead of having to go to a note board and write them down. He understands this is how consultants do this and personally thinks this was not the proper process to follow. He questions why city staff would not want to hear what people want to say and why they would not want to hear what their neighbors have to say. These meetings should be held so neighbors can get to know other neighbors and is an opportunity to introduce themselves to one another. Moving forward, the city commission has the authority to tell staff to change this process. Residents in the MacArthur Park neighborhood took it upon themselves to deviate from this process and city staff tried to stifle this. There were 12 city employees in attendance of the 20 total in attendance.

Jennifer Ashburn, 2112 Parkview Boulevard, said she was at the last ice cream social and wrote down three questions. She wondered if she will hear back from the city and asked

what is going to be done about this. If she felt there was an open dialogue, she would have asked and gotten an answer right away and would have felt much better. She has lived here for the past ten years and has asked questions without getting answers.

Mike Meinzer said he attended the last ice cream social and the residents in that particular neighborhood were very upset because the meeting was hijacked and they felt intimidated by people who did not live in their neighborhood. They were not very happy that people came from outside of the neighborhood and he did not see or hear what the last three commentators said tonight. Wes Poole said this does not make a whole lot of sense and there should be a sign-in sheet.

Dick Brady said the commission has returned to in-person meetings and done away with virtual meetings although we are distancing with some of the staff who are participating tonight from their offices. We are going to return to only receive comments from people who attend the meetings in person. We will not read comments into the record any longer. We will always receive them and answer them, but we will not read them into the record.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Naomi Twine and second of Mike Meinzer, the commission voted to adjourn at 6:09 p.m. The President declared the motion passed.

Kelly L. Kresser
Interim Commission Clerk

Richard R. Brady
President of the City Commission